

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

To the National Organic Standards Board and members of the National Organic Program,

Please allow me this opportunity to comment on the Access to Outdoors for Poultry issue. It is a fundamental mandate of the OFPA and CFR 205 that livestock living conditions include access to the outdoors. To not require such practice with poultry undermines the very foundation and spirit of organic food production. Consumers expect organic poultry to be raised with access to the outdoors. There will be a credibility backlash if this dual standard is allowed. Organic poultry can and must be managed with outdoor access. Avian Influenza fears are unsubstantiated. The Organic Valley Cooperative has never experienced an AI outbreak in their ten year history.

**For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry**

Respectfully,

Lloyd Wetstein

April 15, 2002

MAY 8

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Respectfully,

*Quidam is the big difference, the Organic product  
is cheated, should it be confined*

*John F. Stoltzfus*

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Respectfully,



It is important that all animals have access to the outdoors not only for health reasons but for humane reasons as well



(Adrian Werthman organic farmer)

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Respectfully,

*David Pearson*

We Raise 4-500 Broilers and have a Laying Flock  
of 50-60 birds all raised organically

Fresh outside air and green grass are the best for  
healthier birds and a healthier product.

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Respectfully, *Mike Natvig*

20074, Timber Ave.  
Cresco, Iowa 52136

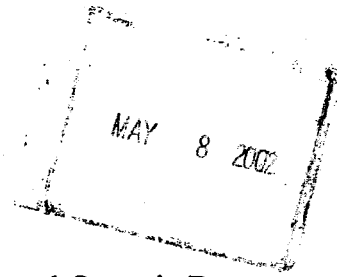
I'm a fifth generation farmer in N.E. Iowa. on 420 acres  
we raise organic crops, Pork, Beef, Poultry. I Believe outdoor  
access is vital to the integrity of an organic poultry  
program. The many benefits to outdoor access are:  
it allows natural animal behavior, Reduces cannibalism,  
Fresh grass increases Vitamin A levels in eggs. it sets a  
strong humane treatment standard, and its the Law  
under OFPA + the NOP rule.





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Respectfully,

*Ken Blatz*  
ORGANIC chicken consumer

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Andy Schachters      Andy Shapiro



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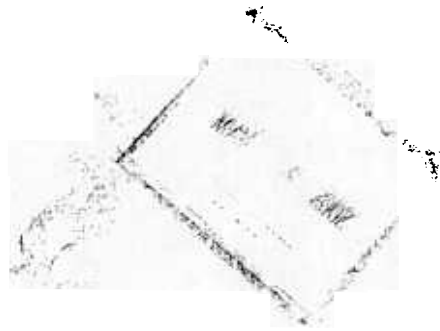
For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully, *Roge & Brian (viewed)*

*Our eggs (yolks) are very orange when on  
green grass & pale yellow when not. Don't  
destroy a good thing.*

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Respectfully,

*Benedict Wagner*



BENEDICT D. OR JEAN E. WAGNER  
9750 CO. RD. 5 NW  
BRANDON, MN 56315-8225

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Respectfully,

*Chris Schuler*

9255 Union Valley  
Block Earth WI 53515

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Respectfully,

Joel B. King 344 Crust Rd.  
Howard, Pa. 16841

Our chickens free range & grass feed &  
their eggs have an orange yoke ~~instead~~ instead  
of a pale yellow one. When I see  
an egg with pale yellow yoke it reminds of  
an egg from a half sick chicken. I'd  
be willing to believe that grass fed chickens  
lay eggs that are more nutritious &  
better tasting. Also living out in sunshine  
should be better for the chicken.

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Respectfully, *Don Steben*, Organic Valley Dairy  
Producer

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Respectfully, *Henry Nisley*  
1398 Hwy E  
Livingston WI 53554

*I believe outdoor access for livestock is very important. If you allow cows chickens to go outside there behavior is more real the way livestock was intended to be*

*I feel if livestock isn't allowed outdoor access it isn't organic any more that is what the consumer expects livestock to do*

*Please Take these issues serious*

*Sincerely yours*

*Henry Nisley*



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Respectfully,

*Gay Lehman*

*Organic dairy farmer for over 30 years*

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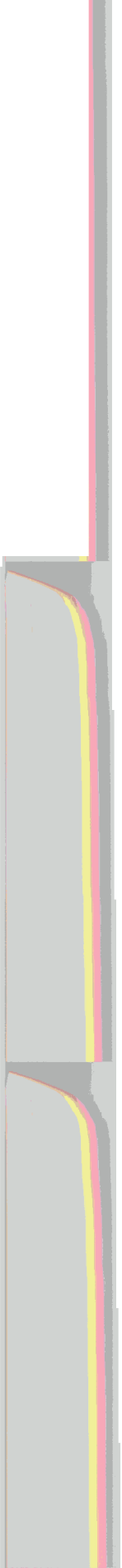
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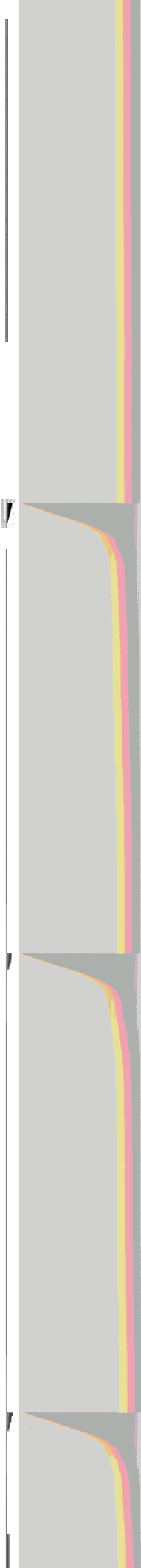
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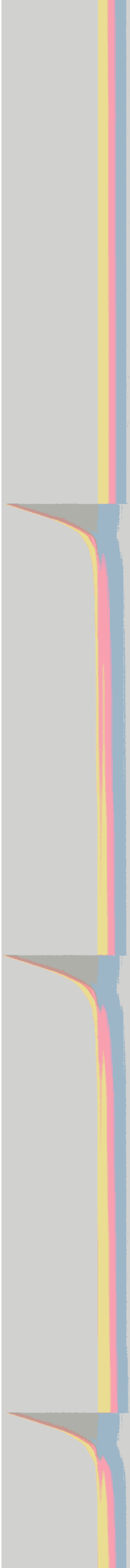
Respectfully,

Kathryn Douglas







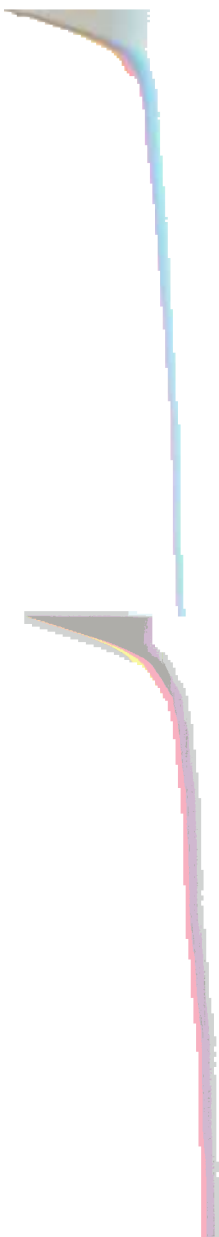


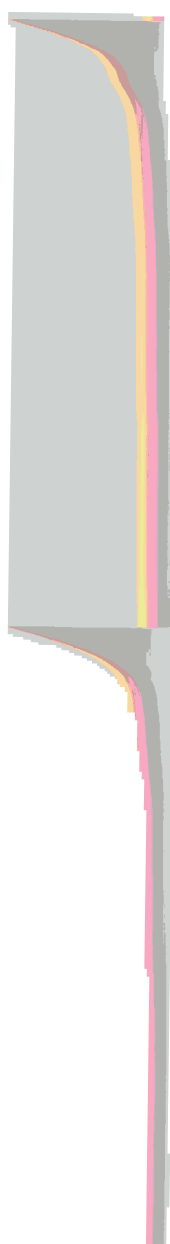


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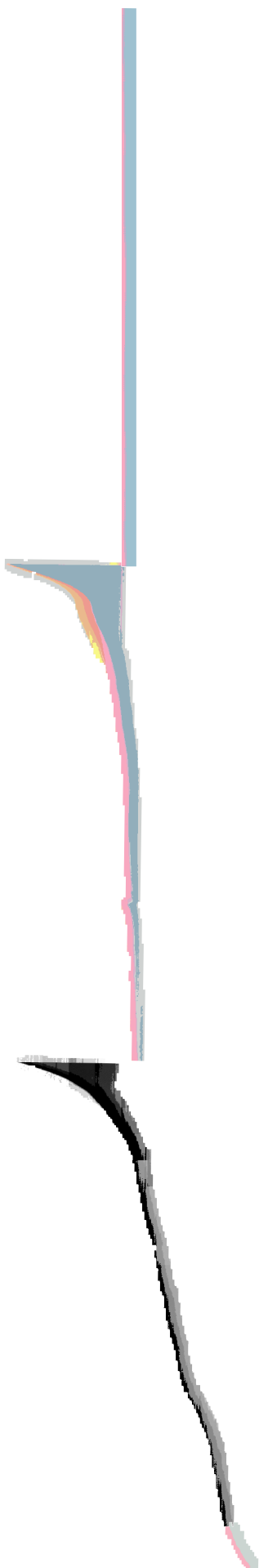
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June 29, 2002

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